

**“Forest Eco” Podcast & Radio Module**

Southern Research Station

U.S. Forest Service

Asheville, N.C.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**August 2009, Forest Eco - Podcast**

Length: 2 minutes

(Air from August 2009 through July 2010)

*(open with natural forest sound)*

(narrator)

From Virginia to Florida, Texas to Kentucky....This is Forest Eco.

The build-up of greenhouse gases is changing the climate, and compared to historic levels, will very likely result in an increase in air temperature of 4 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century.

So what effect will climate change have on the South's forests?

For answers, we turn to Steve McNulty, research ecologist with U.S. Forest Service Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

He says forests have always been subjected to many kinds of stress.

(Steve McNulty)

“Life is tough.”

(narrator)

Like people, trees can normally heal from low levels of episodic (or even chronic) stress.

However, climate change will likely create new disturbances from previously benign conditions.

Steve McNulty says under a changing climate, stressors could combine to become a major disturbance.

(Steve McNulty)

“Remember the 1980's movie "Gremlins"? All was good with those cute, little furry critters until you added water, and then they started to multiply like crazy. The same is true with climate change.”

(narrator)

McNulty adds that a lot of ecosystem conditions exist that by themselves do not cause any harm. But when certain conditions combine, bad things can happen.

McNulty says while he and his colleagues are looking at these complex interactions.

(Steve McNulty)

“There will likely be many surprises that we are currently unprepared to handle.”

(narrator)

He and his colleagues study climate change and other ecosystem stresses in an effort to develop forest management tools for landowners and managers.

He says climate change will affect everything from water availability to recreation.

This brings us to our Forest Eco-tip for the month which is...Recycle your plastic, glass and aluminum. Creating products from recycled material requires less energy, reduces carbon emissions, and helps to slow climate change!

‘Forest Eco’ is produced by the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station, which is solely responsible for its content.

For ‘Forest Eco’ ...I’m Stevin Westcott”

*(close with natural forest sound)*